

The present species is, so far as we know, confined to the southern portion of India. Dr. Jerdon says it is found in the forests of Malabar, generally on high trees, and in pairs, both above and below the Ghâts. He also procured it in the forests in the Chanda district, South-east of Nagpore. Capt. Butler (Str. F. 1880, p. 385) observes that it is rare in the Deccan and South Mahratta country, occurring sparingly along the Sahyadri range as far north as Khandala. Mr. Laird procured it in the forests north of Belgaum and in North Kanara. Mr. Davidson (Str. F. 1883, p. 354) says that "in the Wynaad and Mysore country it is not a common bird, and found in pairs or parties sparingly distributed. It ascends the slopes of the hills to about 3000 feet."

It is included in Mr. Hume's 'List of the Birds of the Travancore Hills,' having been obtained at Mynall by M. Bourdillon.

XXX.—*On a Collection of Birds from Central China.*

By HENRY SEEBÖHM.

I AM indebted to the kindness of Mr. John M. Mitchell for allowing me to examine a collection of birds made in the valley of the Yang-tse-kiang river, in Central China, by Mr. Frederick Styan. They were principally obtained near Kiukiang, 450 miles up the river, and on the Lushan range of mountains, which lie directly behind Kiukiang, at a distance of five or six miles as the crow flies. These mountains run in a south-westerly direction for twenty miles or more, and the highest peak is about 5000 feet above the level of the sea. The hills are broken and rugged, and, for the most part, covered with dense scrub nearly breast-high. The highest range is covered with long coarse grass, and a few stunted pines creep up to the summit; but up to about 2000 feet the pine-forests cover extensive areas. Mingled with the pines, but not, as a rule, extending quite so high, are large tracts of bamboos, amongst which are sprinkled magnolias, camphor-trees, camellias, laurels, azaleas, &c.

9*. *BUTEO VULGARIS*.

An example with very conspicuously barred thighs, and with the tarsus feathered to within an inch of the toes, may fairly claim to be considered to belong to var. *japonicus*.

13. *BUTASTER INDICUS*.15. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*.

Kiukiang, December.

15 a. *FALCO MELANOGENYS*.

A male and female, both shot on the 18th of March at Hai San, are pronounced by Mr. J. H. Gurney to be of this species. They differ from our Peregrine, which is probably only a winter visitor to Central China, in being slightly smaller, and in having the underparts below the breast much barred and suffused with slate-grey; but the most important character is the colour of the head and nape, which are nearly black, shading into slate-grey on the mantle. This species can scarcely be more than a local race of our Peregrine, breeding in Australia, ranging northwards to Borneo and Central China and westwards to Sumatra and Java, and intermediate in appearance between our bird and the North-west Indian race, *F. atriceps*, in which the whole of the upper parts are very dark slate-grey, approaching black. Mr. Gurney informs me that the Norwich Museum possesses an example from Amoy, the most northerly locality previously known.

23. *MILVUS MELANOTIS*.

Four examples, large birds, showing much white at the base of the primaries below the under wing-coverts, and with little or no white on the forehead, are referable to this species, which can only be regarded as the eastern race of our Black Kite.

33. *CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS*.

An example with dark-chestnut belly, thighs, and under

* The numbers refer to Swinhoe's "Catalogue of the Birds of China," published in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London' for 1871, pp. 337-423.

tail-coverts, and brown unbarred tail, is dated 30th November, and seems to prove that our Marsh-Harrier goes to China.

34. *CIRCUS SPILONOTUS*.

A male, dated Kiukiang, 17th November, with the belly, thighs, and under tail-coverts white, with traces only of chestnut spots or shaft-lines, but with a barred tail, seems to belong unquestionably to the eastern form of the Marsh-Harrier. A female, dated a week later, has the tail more broadly barred, and the ground-colour of the underparts rufous instead of white. In both the primaries are barred.

40. *ATHENE WHITELYI*.

An example dated Poyang Lake, January, seems to prove that all these Owls do not migrate south in winter.

55. *OTUS BRACHYOTUS*.

An example, dated Kiukiang, 28th April, is rufous.

66. *HIRUNDO GUTTURALIS*.

Kiukiang, 15th July.

77. *HALCYON PILEATUS*.

An example, bought alive.

78. *ALCEDO BENGALENSIS*.

Kiukiang, July and September.

82. *UPUPA EOPS*.

Kiukiang, December.

106. *SUYA STRIATA*.

Lushan, December.

109. *CISTICOLA SCHÆNICOLA*.

Kiukiang, 30th August.

112. *ACROCEPHALUS ORIENTALIS*.

Wuhn, 20th October.

118. *CETTIA CANTURIANS*.

Kiukiang, 11th April.

139. *PHYLLOSCOPUS PROREGULUS*.

Two examples.

145. *RUTICILLA AUROREA*.

Kiukiang, November.

149. *XANTHOPYGIA FULIGINOSA*.

Lushan, 26th March.

150. *THAMNOBIA LEUCOCEPHALA*.

154. *TARSIGER CYANURUS*.

Kiukiang, March and November.

175. *PARUS MINOR*.

191. *MOTACILLA LEUCOPSIS*.

Kiukiang, September, October, and February.

196. *MOTACILLA OCULARIS*.

Poyang Lake, January.

202. *MOTACILLA SULPHUREA*.

Lushan, 6th April.

204. *HENICURUS SINENSIS*.

Kiukiang, 4th November.

206. *HENICURUS SCOULERI*.

Kiukiang, 26th September.

206*a*. *HETERURA SYLVANA*.

Nankang, 15th December. This species is a very interesting addition to the birds of China. It has hitherto been found only on the Himalayas. It is a mountain Pipit, which, under the "furor genericus," has been allowed to set up a genus of its own.

208*a*. *ANTHUS LUDOVICIANUS*.

Poyang Lake, January. This Pipit is, no doubt, a winter visitor to Central China. It is the Nearctic form of our Alpine Pipit, *A. spinoletta*, from which it only differs in being smaller and darker. It is a common winter visitor to Japan, and was named *A. japonicus* by Temminck and Schlegel.

214. *MERULA NAUMANNI*.

Several skins, dated November, December, and January. Probably a winter visitor only.

215. *MERULA FUSCATA*.

Skins dated from 8th November to 8th April. No doubt a winter visitor from the tundras of Eastern Siberia.

218. *MERULA PALLIDA*.

225. *MERULA MANDARINA*.

226. *GEOCICHLA VARIA*.

Lushan, 4th April.

232. *MONTICOLA CYANUS-SOLITARIUS*.

Poyang Lake, 5th December. A female of one of these two forms, or, more probably, of an intermediate form.

233. *MYIOPHONEUS CÆRULEUS*.

Lushan, 8th April.

235. *CINCLUS PALLASI*.

Kiukiang, August.

242. *PYCNONOTUS SINENSIS*.

Kiukiang, January, July, and November.

244. *PYCNONOTUS XANTHORRHŌUS*.

Sin Fung, January.

247. *SPIZIXUS SEMITORQUES*.

Kiukiang, 2nd February.

254*a*. *POMATORHINUS STYANI*, nov. sp.

Lushan, 4th April and 8th November. The genus *Pomatorhinus* was monographed by Capt. Wardlaw Ramsay (Ibis, 1878, pp. 129–145) and afterwards by Mr. Bowdler Sharpe (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vii. pp. 408–432), and *P. ruficollis* has been specially investigated by Col. Godwin-Austen (Journ. As. Soc. Beng. 1876, p. 75) and by l'Abbé David and Mons. Oustalet (Ois. de la Chine, p. 186); nevertheless it appears to me that three distinct species are confused together under this name by all the writers I have named. Mr. Sharpe confesses that he accepted the verdict of these distinguished authorities against the validity of Swinhoe's species without trying the case himself; but after comparing

Mr. Styan's skins and those in the Swinhoe collection, which include examples collected by l'Abbé David in Moupin and Sechuen, with a large series from Nepal and Sikkim, he endorses my subdivision of this species into three, all of which have white throats and white margins to the feathers of the breast; but

P. ruficollis has the breast-streaks and the underparts below the breast russet-brown;

P. stridulus has the breast-streaks rich chestnut, contrasting with the russet-brown underparts below the breast; and

P. styani has the breast-streaks and the underparts below the breast olive-brown.

There is little or no difference in the colour of the upper parts (except that *P. styani* is slightly more olive (less russet) on the rump and upper tail-coverts); but *P. ruficollis* has much larger feet than the other two species, the hinder toe and claw varying in length from 1.0 to 0.8 inch in this species, from 0.85 to 0.7 inch in *P. stridulus*, and from 0.75 to 0.7 inch in *P. styani*.

P. ruficollis appears to be a resident in Nepal, Sikkim, and Assam.

P. stridulus appears to be confined to South China from Sechuen to Tokien.

P. styani is at present only known from the valley of the Yang-tse-kiang and the adjoining district of Eastern Thibet, but may possibly also occur in Assam. Mr. Styan describes it as common on the Lushan hills behind Kiukiang, where it frequents the thick cover of the lower slopes. It is a shy skulking bird, creeping through the cover, and only occasional glimpses of it can be obtained as it flits from bush to bush. In spring it is seen in pairs, but in autumn flocks of twenty or more are found together. From March to November they sing incessantly, more especially in spring and autumn. Mr. Styan describes the song as very similar to that of the so-called "Chinese Thrush" (*Trochalopteron canorum*), a nearly allied bird, which is kept in thousands by the Chinese on account of its wonderful singing powers. He further adds, "the song is very sweet and musical, and

poured forth with a vigour which reminds me of the Sky-Lark ; in the early morning, and again about sunset, it may be heard issuing in all directions from the copses high up on the hill-sides, and is one of the most beautiful notes I know."

257. *TROCHALOPTERUM CANORUM*.

Bought alive.

260. *GARRULAX PERSPICILLATUS*.

October and January.

263. *GARRULAX SANNIO*.

Kiukiang.

272. *SUTHORA SUFFUSA*.

Kiukiang.

290. *ORIOLOUS CHINENSIS*.

295. *LANIUS SCHACH*.

Nankang, January and March.

306. *DICRURUS CATHÆCUS*.

310. *CHIBIA BREVIROSTRIS*.

Kiukiang, 24th September.

341. *GARRULUS SINENSIS*.

January, April, and November.

344. *UROCISSA SINENSIS*.

350. *PICA CAUDATA*.

Of two examples, one is a typical European Magpie and the other a *P. leucoptera* ; both were shot in January.

351. *CYANOPOLIUS CYANUS*.

March, April, July, and November.

353. *CORVUS LEVAILLANTI*.

Kiukiang, July and October.

354. *CORVUS TORQUATUS*.

Kiukiang, September and October.

356. *FRUGILEGUS PASTINATOR*.

362. *ACRIDOTHERES CRISTATELLUS*.

January and November.

366. *STURNUS CINERACEUS*.

January, March, and November.

373. *FRINGILLA MONTIFRINGILLA*.

Kiukiang, 21st February.

375. *FRINGILLA SINICA*.

Kiukiang, 23rd November.

385. *COCCOTHRAUSTES MELANURUS*.

Kiukiang, 8th March.

397. *EMBERIZA AUREOLA*.

Kiukiang, 2nd May.

407. *EMBERIZA CIOPSIS*.

January and March.

410. *EMBERIZA PUSILLA*.

Kiukiang, 1st March.

432. *PICUS MANDARINUS*.

Lushan, 1st April. An intermediate example, the white more developed than in typical South-Chinese birds, but not so much so as in typical North-Chinese birds.

441. *GEVINUS GUERINI*.

Five examples, making, with the skins in the Swinhoe collection, a series of a dozen, lead me to the conclusion that the Formosan bird cannot be separated. The variations in general colour, and in the amount of black on the head and white on the tail, are so great that it seems probable that a series from a great range of localities would bridge over the entire distance from *G. canus* of Siberia to *G. occipitalis* of the Himalayas, between which all these Chinese forms are intermediate.

470. *TURTUR ORIENTALIS*.

March.

471. *TURTUR CHINENSIS*.

December and January.

479. PHASIANUS TORQUATUS.

Kiukiang, 1st March. A fine pair of birds of the typical Chinese form. Mr. Dresser has lately obtained some interesting examples of Pheasants from the Corea which are intermediate between this species and *P. formosanus*.

508. COTURNIX COMMUNIS.

February.

514. OTIS DYBOWSKII.

A female agreeing with examples from Japan. Taczanowski assures me that the East-Siberian bird is quite distinct from the European species.

521. GLAREOLA ORIENTALIS.

December.

522. VANELLUS CRISTATUS.

Poyang Lake, January.

530. CHARADRIUS PLACIDUS.

Two examples, without locality or date, belong to this species, which Swinhoe renamed *Ægialitis hartingi*, and Père David *Charadrius longipes*.

534. CHARADRIUS MINOR.

Kiukiang, 12th September.

538. TOTANUS GLOTTIS.

December and January.

543. TOTANUS OCHROPUS.

Kiukiang, 9th November.

550. SCOLOPAX RUSTICULA.

February.

553. SCOLOPAX HORSFIELDI.

Kiukiang, 2nd May.

554. SCOLOPAX GALLINAGO.

Kiukiang, 29th April and 7th October.

559. PHALAROPUS HYPERBOREUS.

Kiukiang, 30th August.

563. *TRINGA ALPINA*.

Kiukiang and Nankang in winter.

566. *TRINGA RUFICOLLIS*.

Kiukiang, 12th September.

568. *TRINGA TEMMINCKI*.

22nd October.

570. *NUMENIUS MINUTUS*.

Kiukiang, 30th September.

578. *NUMENIUS LINEATUS*.

Kiukiang, 2nd October. A handsome bird, distinguished by its long bill, white axillaries, and white rump.

584. *ARDEA CINEREA*.

Kiukiang, 7th October.

587. *ARDEA INTERMEDIA*.

Kiukiang, 23rd July. It differs from the next species, in all ages and at all seasons, in having a yellow instead of a black bill.

588. *ARDEA GARZETTA*.

Kiukiang, 17th November.

593. *ARDEA PRASINOSCELES*.594. *ARDEA NYCTICORAX*.

Kiukiang, 10th July.

596. *BOTAURUS STELLARIS*.

Kiukiang, March.

597. *ARDETTA FLAVICOLLIS*.

Kiukiang, 10th July.

599. *ARDETTA SINENSIS*.

Kiukiang, 28th June.

601. *HYDROPHASIANUS CHIRURGUS*.

Kiukiang, 22nd June.

602. *GALLICREX CRISTATA*.

Kiukiang, May and June.

604. *GALLINULA PHENICURA*.

Kiukiang, 10th July.

606. *PORZANA BAILLONI*.

Kiukiang, 7th May.

610. *FULICA ATRA*.

Kiukiang, 19th November.

611. *PODICEPS MINOR*.

Kiukiang, 7th October. Indistinguishable from British examples. The varieties known as *P. philippensis* are found in Western Europe, and may be referable to age.

618. *MERGUS MERGANSER*.

Kiukiang, 20th January.

624. *ANSER ALBIFRONS*.

October.

625. *ANSER ERYTHROPUS*.

An example from the river Yang-tse-kiang, dated the 22nd of October, somewhat resembles the skin from Hakodadi which I determined as the young of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (Ibis, 1882, p. 369). I see no reason to change my opinion. They differ from the adult of *A. brachyrhynchus* in having no dark base to the bill, though the nail is dark, as it is in the adult of that species, and in young only of *A. erythropus*.

627. *ANSER SERRIROSTRIS*.

An example dated February measures 2·5 inches from the forehead to the tip of the beak. It is an intermediate form between *A. segetum* and *A. grandis*, which range in the length of bill, measured as above, from 2·2 to 3·4 inches. It is certainly only subspecifically distinct from the former, and probably also from the latter.

628. *ANAS BOSCHAS*.

Poyang Lake, December.

629. *ANAS ZONORHYNCHA*.

Nan Chang, December.

631. *TADORNA CASARCA*.

Kiukiang, November.

632. *ANAS CLYPEATA*.

Kiukiang, March.

633. *ANAS ACUTA*.

Kiukiang, February.

634. *ANAS PENELOPE*.

January.

636. *ANAS CRECCA*.

January and October.

639. *EUNETTA FORMOSA*.

640. *EUNETTA FALCATA*.

647. *FULIGULA CRISTATA*.

Kiukiang, 8th March.

648*a*. *NETTAPUS COROMANDELIANUS*.

Kiukiang, June and July. The *N. kopschii* of Swinhoe in winter plumage of this species. David and Oustalet are wrong in saying that the female has no collar, and omit the important fact that she has no white on the primaries.

649. *PHALACROCORAX CARBO*.

657. *LARUS CACHINNANS*.

Kiukiang, 17th November.

660. *LARUS RIDIBUNDUS*.

January and November.

662. *STERNA CASPIA*.

Kiukiang, 3rd September.

663. *HYDROCHELIDON HYBRIDA*.

Kiukiang, 4th August.